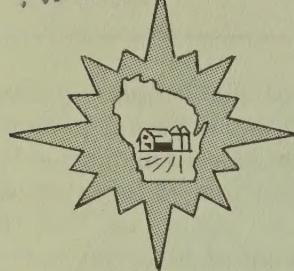


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WISCONSIN

Farm Reporter

- Dairy
- Crops
- Livestock

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Cream of the News

Milk production in Wisconsin and the Nation during February was 3 percent under a year ago.

Wholesale prices of Swiss and cheddar cheese at Wisconsin assembly points continued upward in February.

Beef production in Wisconsin during January was up 12 percent from last year and output of pork increased 21 percent.

Farm product prices in Wisconsin averaged higher in mid-February than a month earlier due to increases for cattle, calves, milk, turkeys, and crops.

The Nation's cheese production in January was 18 percent above a year ago but butter production declined 16 percent.

Milk prices in Wisconsin continued to rise during February but at a slower rate than in previous months.

Based on the March 1 Planting Intentions survey, farmers in Wisconsin and the Nation plan to increase corn acreage 10 percent in 1974.

Steer prices at St. Paul and Kansas City declined from January to February as did prices of barrows and gilts at St. Paul.

The Nation's cold storage stocks of meat at the end of February were 30 percent higher than the previous year.

Wisconsin farmers had 6 percent fewer hogs and pigs on farms March 1 than a year earlier but the 14 major producing states showed an increase of 2 percent.

Cold storage stocks of cheese in the Nation at the end of February were up 20 percent from a year earlier but butter stocks were down 53 percent.

A custom rates guide for spring field work is shown on page 7.

U.S. NATIONAL DEPT. OF ADMINISTRATION
JUN 8 1974
MILK PRODUCTION
DOWN 3 PERCENT

Production of milk in Wisconsin and the Nation during February was down 3 percent from last year. Wisconsin farms produced 1,400 million pounds of milk in February. This was 6 percent less than in January, about the same decline as shown from January to February 1973. Output per cow in February averaged 780 pounds, 15 pounds under the previous year. Wisconsin's milk production has been below a year earlier since January 1973.

Milk production in the Nation during February totaled 8,711 million pounds. Output per cow averaged 776 pounds, the same as in February 1973 but milk cows on farms were down 3 percent. The Nation's milk production has been below the previous year for 17 consecutive months.

Milk Production

Selected States	February 1973	February 1974	Jan.-Feb. 1974	Change from last year	
				Feb.	Jan.-Feb.
Million pounds					
Wisconsin . . .	1,449	1,400	2,891	— 3	— 3
Minnesota . . .	812	815	1,637	n. c.	n. c.
Iowa	331	289	584	— 13	— 13
New York . . .	769	742	1,552	— 4	— 3
Pennsylvania . .	512	498	1,053	— 3	— 2
California . . .	760	771	1,601	+ 1	+ 1
Other states . .	4,336	4,196	8,671	— 3	— 4
United States .	8,969	8,711	17,989	— 3	— 3

MILK PRICES RISE
AT SLOWER RATE

Milk prices in Wisconsin continued to rise during February but at a slower rate than in previous months. Wisconsin dairy farmers are expected to receive \$8.64 a hundredweight for all milk of average test sold in February. This would be 2 cents above January and \$2.69 higher than February 1973.

Milk prices in January averaged \$8.62 a hundredweight, up 10 cents from December and \$2.67 more than a year earlier. Milkfat content for January averaged 3.79 percent compared with 3.77 percent in January 1973.

Grade A milk producers received an average of \$8.75 a hundredweight in January, an increase of 10 cents from the

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previous month and \$2.67 above last year. Manufacturing grade milk averaged \$8.43 a hundredweight for January, also 10 cents more than December and \$2.66 greater than January 1973. The spread between market and manufacturing grade milk was 32 cents in January compared with 31 cents a year earlier.

Milk Prices 1/

Selected States	December 1973		January price per cwt.			Feb. 1974 price per cwt. 2/
	Average test	Price per cwt.	1973	1974	74/73 change	
Milk for all uses	Percent	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Percent	Dollars
Wisconsin	3.83	8.52	5.95	8.62	+ 45	8.64
Minnesota	3.72	8.08	5.61	8.23	+ 47	8.52
Iowa	3.85	8.49	5.83	8.57	+ 47	8.65
New York	3.66	8.70	6.80	8.80	+ 29	8.90
California	3.84	8.00	6.00	7.95	+ 33	7.70
United States	3.80	8.82	6.55	8.89	+ 36	8.95
Wisconsin utilization						
Market milk	3.84	8.65	6.08	8.75	+ 44	xxx
Manufacturing milk	3.82	8.33	5.77	8.43	+ 46	xxx
Creameries	3.80	8.25	5.60	8.37	+ 49	xxx
Cheese factories	3.82	8.33	5.79	8.44	+ 46	xxx
Varied prod. plants	3.82	8.32	5.66	8.40	+ 48	xxx

1/Preliminary average buying prices received for milk of average test. They differ from basic buying prices which are for 3.5% milk. 2-Based on preliminary information for milk of average test.

Wisconsin 3.5 Test Milk Prices 1/

Utilization	Jan.	Dec.	Jan.	Change from
	1973	1973	1974 2/	last year
			Dollars per cwt.	Percent
Milk for all uses	5.52	7.79	7.96	+ 44
Market milk	5.65	7.89	8.04	+ 42
Manufacturing milk	5.36	7.63	7.83	+ 46
Creameries	5.20	7.60	7.81	+ 50
American cheese plants	5.38	7.63	7.84	+ 46
Varied products plants	5.24	7.62	7.80	+ 49
Federal Order Markets				
Chicago Regional Base Zone . . .	5.98	8.39	8.53	+ 43

1/Computed equivalents. 2/Preliminary.

CHEESE PRODUCTION UP 18 PERCENT BUT BUTTER OUTPUT DOWN 16 PERCENT

Production of all cheese in the Nation during January amounted to 240 million pounds, 18 percent more than a year earlier. Output of butter, at 80½ million pounds in January, was 16 percent below last year.

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All varieties of cheese showed production increases from January 1973 except Swiss which was down 8 percent. American cheese production was up 24 percent, Italian 19 percent, Brick and Muenster 6 percent, and all other cheese 3 percent.

Wisconsin made 64 million pounds of American cheese during January, a gain of 13 percent from the previous year. Minnesota increased its American cheese production 37 percent from January last year while Missouri was up 24 percent and all other states rose 32 percent.

Butter production in both Wisconsin and Minnesota during January was down 2 percent from a year ago. Churnings in Iowa for January were less than half of a year earlier and other states were down 22 percent. Production of cottage cheese in the Nation during January was 17 percent under last year while output of ice cream declined 1 percent.

Current Dairy Products Estimates

Item and area	January	January	Change from last year
	1973	1974	
1,000 pounds			
BUTTER			
Wisconsin	17,150	16,850	- 2
Minnesota	19,900	19,600	- 2
Iowa	6,200	2,800	- 55
Other states	52,892	41,317	- 22
United States	96,142	80,567	- 16
CHEESE, AMERICAN			
Wisconsin	56,400	64,000	+ 13
Minnesota	18,700	25,600	+ 37
Missouri	5,200	6,450	+ 24
Other states	43,203	57,069	+ 32
United States	123,503	153,119	+ 24
CHEESE, MISCELLANEOUS			
United States			
Swiss	14,911	13,729	- 8
Brick and Muenster	5,264	5,592	+ 6
Italian	42,154	50,154	+ 19
All other	17,047	17,474	+ 3
Total	79,376	86,949	+ 10
ALL CHEESE			
United States	202,879	240,068	+ 18
OTHER PRODUCTS			
Cottage Cheese			
United States			
Curd 1/	66,442	55,018	- 17
Creamed 2/	85,209	70,473	- 17
1,000 gallons			
Ice Cream			
Wisconsin	1,350	1,250	- 7
Illinois	3,400	3,160	- 7
Iowa	510	490	- 4
Michigan	2,760	2,365	- 14
Minnesota	2,235	2,245	n. c.
Other states	44,684	44,853	n. c.
United States	54,939	54,363	- 1

1/Includes cottage, pot, and bakers' cheese with a milkfat content of less than 4 percent. 2/Includes cheese with a milkfat content of 4 to 19 percent.

WHOLESALE CHEESE PRICES CONTINUE HIGHER

Wholesale prices of Swiss and cheddar cheese at Wisconsin assembly points continued upward in February. Swiss cheese, Wisconsin State Brand, averaged \$1.16 a pound for February. This was nearly 14 cents higher than January and 38 cents above last year.

Cheddar cheese in 40 pound blocks averaged slightly over 91 cents a pound during February, up more than 1 cent from a month earlier. This marked a full year that wholesale prices of cheddar cheese were above the previous year. The

average price of cheddar cheese in February 1973 was 63½ cents a pound.

Wholesale prices of 92-score butter at the New York market again declined in February. The February average of 65.32 cents a pound was 5½ cents under January and 9 cents below two months ago. Last year in February the wholesale price of 92-score butter at New York was 68.67 cents a pound.

Wholesale Dairy Prices

Commodity	February 1973	January 1974	February 1974 1/
Butter, 92-score, New York, pound . . .	68.67¢	70.80¢	65.32¢
Cheese, Cheddars, Wisconsin primary markets, 40 lb. blocks, pound 2/ . . .	63.75¢	89.92¢	91.06¢
Cheese, Swiss, Wisconsin State Brand, block pound 2/	78.00¢	102.20¢	116.00¢
Evaporated milk, North Central States, case, 48-14½ oz. cans, range	\$8.25-9.48	\$10.95-11.51	\$ - - - -
Nonfat dry milk solids, spray, Chicago area, pound	40.34¢	55.13¢	57.75¢

1/Preliminary estimates. 2/Selling prices, f.o.b. at Wisconsin assembly points.

AMERICAN CHEESE PRODUCTION TO CONTINUE WELL ABOVE LAST YEAR

Weekly estimates for February indicate that American cheese production will continue substantially higher than a year ago. The Nation's production of American cheese in February could be 27 percent above last year, following an increase of 24 percent in January. Wisconsin dairy plants manufactured 13 percent more American cheese in January than a year earlier. Production in the State for February may show a similar gain, according to weekly estimates.

Production of butter in Wisconsin and the Nation during February will continue below a year ago. Weekly estimates indicate that butter output in the Nation for February will be a fifth less than in February 1973. Churnings of butter in the Nation during January were 16 percent under last year. Creameries in Wisconsin produced 2 percent less butter in January than a year earlier but output for February will show a considerably sharper drop.

Recent Changes in Butter and Cheese Output

Periods	Butter			American Cheese		
	United States		Wisconsin	United States		Wisconsin
	Production 1974	Change from last year	Change from last year	Production 1974	Change from last year	Change from last year
January . . .	1,000 lbs.	Percent	Percent	1,000 lbs.	Percent	Percent
Weeks ending	80,567	- 16	- 2	153,119	+ 24	+ 13
Feb. 7 . . .	17,200	- 18	- 11	37,050	+ 26	+ 17
Feb. 14 . . .	16,950	- 19	- 17	37,800	+ 27	+ 14
Feb. 21 . . .	16,800	- 23	- 22	38,800	+ 28	+ 10
Feb. 28 . . .	16,810	- 21	- 19	39,190	+ 28	+ 13
Total . . .	67,760	- 20	xxx	152,840	+ 27	xxx

CHEESE STOCKS UP 20 PERCENT

Total stocks of cheese in the Nation's cold storage facilities at the end of February were 20 percent above last year. Stocks of American cheese, at 319 million pounds, were up 23 percent from February 28, 1973. Swiss cheese

supplies in cold storage at the end of February were 58 percent greater than the previous year but all other cheese stocks were down 1 percent.

The Nation had 52 million pounds of butter in cold storage on February 28, a decline of 53 percent from a year earlier. Government stocks, at 10,623,000 pounds were 82 million pounds less than in storage at the end of February 1973.

Cold Storage Stocks of Butter and Cheese

Commodity	Total stocks			
	Feb. 29, 1972	Feb. 28, 1973	Feb. 28, 1974	Change from last year
1,000 pounds				Percent
UNITED STATES				
Butter	93,272	110,026	51,980	- 53
Cheese, American	229,498	260,154	318,899	+ 23
Cheese, Swiss	7,052	8,640	13,640	+ 58
Cheese, all other	48,856	52,205	51,869	- 1
Cheese, total	285,406	320,999	384,408	+ 20
WISCONSIN				
Butter	4,240	4,452	1,799	- 60
Cheese, American	132,945	173,416	184,600	+ 6
GOVERNMENT STOCKS*				
Butter	64,615	92,641	10,623	- 89
Cheese, American	1,409	138	449	+ 225

*Included in above totals.

Manufacturers' Stocks of Other Dairy Products United States

Commodity	Jan. 31, 1972	Jan. 31, 1973	Jan. 31, 1974	Change from last year
1,000 pounds				Percent
Dried whole milk	4,597	4,415	5,851	+ 33
Dried skim milk	77,074	35,399	59,965	+ 78
Dried buttermilk	3,458	3,082	5,278	+ 71
Condensed milk and evaporated milk (case goods) 1/ . . .	74,294	60,179	54,488	- 27

1/Combined to avoid disclosing individual plant operations.

MORE PORK AND BEEF IN COLD STORAGE

Cold storage stocks of pork and beef in the Nation at the end of February were substantially above a year earlier.

Cold Storage Stocks of Meat United States

Commodity	Feb. 29, 1972	Feb. 28, 1973	Jan. 31, 1974	Feb. 28, 1974	Change from last year			
1,000 pounds				Percent				
Beef:								
Frozen	297,927	357,521	448,995	433,543	+ 21			
In cure and cured	10,671	11,335	14,823	13,003	+ 15			
Total	308,598	368,856	463,818	446,546	+ 21			
Pork:								
Frozen	266,870	187,645	286,783	290,861	+ 55			
In cooler	22,630	13,998	15,749	15,430	+ 10			
Total	289,500	201,643	302,532	306,291	+ 52			
Other meats and meat products:								
Veal, frozen	7,935	14,873	12,459	11,296	- 24			
Lamb and mutton, frozen	12,836	11,847	12,109	12,475	+ 5			
Canned meats in cooler:								
Hams	67,152	49,249	57,461	69,256	+ 41			
Other meats	21,093	15,029	15,794	15,638	+ 4			
Total, all meats	707,114	661,497	864,173	861,502	+ 30			

Pork stocks in cold storage on February 28 amounted to 306 million pounds, 52 percent more than on that date last year. Stocks of pork increased by almost 4 million pounds during February and were more than 104 million pounds above last year. Frozen pork bellies totaled 55 million pounds at the end of February, up 79 percent from a year ago.

Beef supplies in cold storage on February 28 exceeded 446 million pounds, an increase of 21 percent from the previous year. Although cold storage stocks of beef declined 17 million pounds during February, they were more than 77 million pounds above a year earlier.

With both pork and beef stocks up considerably from last year, total meat in cold storage at the end of February was 30 percent greater than on February 28, 1973.

FARMERS PLAN TO INCREASE CORN ACREAGE

The annual March 1 survey of planting intentions for the 1974 crop season indicated that farmers in Wisconsin and the Nation plan to increase corn acreage 10 percent. Wisconsin farmers expect to plant a record 3½ million acres of corn this year while the National corn crop may also be a record of nearly 79 million acres.

Planting intentions for soybeans indicate that Wisconsin and the Nation could plant less acreage in 1974 than a year ago. Wisconsin farmers intend to plant 240,000 acres of soybeans this year, a decline of 2 percent from 1973. The National soybean crop is expected to total 55 million acres, down 4 percent from last year and the first decrease in soybean acreage since 1958.

Farmers in Wisconsin are planning to sow 1,520,000 acres of oats in 1974, an increase of 1 percent from 1973.

Wisconsin tobacco growers indicated that as of March 1 they expected to reduce tobacco acreage 6 percent in 1974. Type 55 acreage may be 4,900 or 400 acres less than in 1973. Type 54 acreage at 4,700 would be 200 acres fewer than last year.

Planted acreage of potatoes in 1974 may increase 5 percent from 1973. As of March 1, growers in Wisconsin intended to plant 51,000 acres of potatoes this year, up 2,500 from 1973 but only 500 acres more than in 1972.

Planned increases in acreage at the National level for 1974 besides corn include a 20 percent gain in spring wheat, 10 percent more tobacco, and a 1 percent increase in fall potatoes. Nationally, acreage may be down 16 percent for barley and 1 percent for both oats and hay in 1974.

Of the 8 major crops included in the March Planting Intentions survey, total acreage in Wisconsin for 1974 is expected to be 9,325,000, an increase of 4 percent from 1973. Corn accounts for nearly all of the increased acreage planned for this year.

The Nation's planting intentions for the 16 crops included in the March 1 survey are for a total of 227 million acres, 4 percent more than planted in 1973. Most of the increase for 1974 will go into corn, spring and durum wheat, and cotton. Sharpest acreage declines for the Nation in 1974 will be in soybeans and barley.

The March 1 Planting Intentions survey was conducted to measure any changes from an earlier survey on January 1 and to assist farmers in making decisions on any further adjustments in their acreage plans as may appear desirable. Wisconsin farmers decided to reduce their soybean acreage from what was reported on the January 1 survey while keeping intentions unchanged for the other crops. Farmers in the Nation decided to increase spring wheat acreage more

Planted Acreage, Selected Crops, 1974 Intentions
Compared with 1972 and 1973 Planted Acreage, Wisconsin and United States

Crop	Wisconsin				United States			
	1972	1973	1974	Change from last year	1972	1973	1974	Change from last year
1,000 acres								
Corn, all	3,051	3,200	3,520	+ 10	66,972	71,611	78,803	+ 10
Spring wheat	11	12	13	+ 8	10,138	12,811	15,378	+ 20
Oats 1/	1,570	1,500	1,520	+ 1	20,178	19,208	18,930	- 1
Barley 1/	24	22	21	- 5	10,639	11,335	9,534	- 16
Potatoes, Fall	50.5	48.5	51.0	+ 5	1,051.2	1,084.6	1,098.8	+ 1
Tobacco, Type 54 2/	5.0	4.9	4.7	- 4	-	-	-	-
Tobacco, Type 55 2/	5.8	5.3	4.9	- 8	-	-	-	-
Tobacco, all 2/	10.8	10.2	9.6	- 6	842.4	891.5	978.5	+ 10
Soybeans 3/	160	246	240	- 2	46,885	57,297	55,041	- 4
Hay, all 2/	3,920	3,950	3,950	n. c.	59,821	62,190	61,613	- 1

1/U. S. total includes acreage planted preceding fall. 2/Acres harvested or intended for harvest. 3/Grown alone for all purposes.

This would be the first year since 1961 that oat acreage has increased in Wisconsin. Two consecutive poor years for oats in 1972 and 1973 have resulted in very short supplies of oats and straw.

Wisconsin's spring wheat acreage may be 13,000 acres this year, an increase of 1,000 acres from last year. Barley acreage in Wisconsin for 1974 is expected to be 21,000 acres, down 1,000 from 1973.

Based on the March 1 survey, Wisconsin farmers may harvest hay from 3,950,000 acres this year, the same as a year ago. The extent of any winterkill could determine how much hay acreage will actually be harvested.

than they had indicated on January 1 while decreasing soybean acreage a little more.

Actual acreages planted could vary from that indicated on the March 1 Intentions survey for such reasons as weather, economic conditions, and the availability of farm production inputs like fuel, fertilizer, and labor.

PRICES RECEIVED INDEX HIGHER IN FEBRUARY

The index of prices received for all farm products sold in Wisconsin averaged 569 percent of the 1910-14 base as of

mid-February, an increase of 7 points (1 percent) from a month earlier and 145 points (34 percent) above last year. Higher prices for cattle, calves, milk, turkeys, and crops were responsible for the increase in the prices received index.

Beef cattle prices moved higher in February as steers and heifers averaged \$39.30 a hundredweight at mid-month, a gain of 80 cents from January and 70 cents above the previous year. Slaughter cows averaged \$32.20 a hundredweight for February, also 80 cents more than January and \$2.00 above a year ago.

Calves returned an average of \$53.50 a hundredweight in mid-February, an increase of \$2.90 from a month earlier and \$1.50 above February 1973. The hog price of \$38.80 a hundredweight for February was down 90 cents from January but \$5.40 higher than last year.

Lambs remained unchanged at \$35.00 a hundredweight from January to February but were \$3.80 above a year earlier. Sheep averaged \$10.50 a hundredweight for February, down 60 cents from the previous month but \$2.00 more than in February 1973. The mid-February wool price of 56 cents a pound was 2 cents under January but 9 cents greater than a year ago.

Prices Received by Wisconsin Farmers

Commodity	Unit	Feb. 15, 1972	Feb. 15, 1973	Jan. 15, 1974	Feb. 15, 1974
Dollars					
Milk cows	Head	425.00	490.00	605.00	630.00
Steers and heifers	Cwt.	31.50	38.60	38.50	39.30
Cows	Cwt.	23.30	30.20	31.40	32.20
Calves	Cwt.	46.00	52.00	50.60	53.50
Hogs	Cwt.	25.10	33.40	39.70	38.80
Sheep	Cwt.	5.30	8.50	11.10	10.50
Lambs	Cwt.	26.70	31.20	35.00	35.00
Wool	Lb.	.21	.47	.58	.56
Chickens 1/	Lb.	.085	.100	.165	.155
Turkeys	Lb.	.230	.240	.320	.350
Eggs	Doz.	.230	.430	.650	.610
Corn	Bu.	1.12	1.27	2.58	2.73
Wheat	Bu.	1.40	1.97	5.18	5.44
Oats	Bu.	.71	.87	1.46	1.55
Soybeans	Bu.	2.95	5.10	5.66	5.87
Alfalfa hay, baled	Ton	23.00	36.00	32.00	35.00

1/Excludes broilers.

Eggs dropped 4 cents a dozen from January to February but were 18 cents above the previous year. Turkeys increased to 35 cents a pound liveweight as of mid-February, a gain of 3 cents from a month earlier and 11 cents more than February 1973.

Corn prices hit a record high of \$2.73 a bushel by mid-February, up 15 cents from January and more than double the price of \$1.27 in February 1973. Oats also reached a record high of \$1.55 a bushel as of the middle of February, a gain of 9 cents from January and 68 cents above last year.

Wheat averaged \$5.44 a bushel for mid-February, an increase of 26 cents from the previous record price in January and \$3.47 greater than a year ago. Soybeans, at \$5.87 a bushel in February, was 21 cents higher than a month earlier and 77 cents above February 1973. Baled alfalfa hay averaged \$35.00 a ton for February, up \$3.00 from January but \$1.00 under the previous year.

RED MEAT PRODUCTION HIGHER IN JANUARY

Production of red meat in Wisconsin's commercial slaughtering plants during January was up 15 percent from a year ago. Output of pork increased 21 percent and beef production gained 12 percent.

The January cattle kill of 121,000 was 11,000 more than a year earlier and a record high. Average liveweight of cattle slaughtered in January was 1,158 pounds, 25 pounds heavier than in January 1973.

Hog slaughter during January amounted to 318,000, an increase of 42,000 from the previous year and the highest for that month since 1971. The average liveweight of hogs butchered in January was 249 pounds, up 12 pounds from a year ago.

There were 23,600 calves slaughtered for veal in January, nearly the same as a year earlier. Calf liveweight, at 147 pounds for January, was 11 pounds lighter than the previous year. The January sheep and lamb kill of 300 was 100 more than in January 1973.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter

Area	Number			Liveweight	
	January		Change from last year	January	
	1973	1974		1973	1974
1,000 head					
Cattle			Percent	Million pounds	
Wisconsin	110.0	121.0	+ 10	124.6	140.1
United States 1/ . . .	3,104.9	3,086.6	- 1	3,256.6	3,278.6
Calves			n. c.	3.7	3.5
Wisconsin	23.5	23.6	n. c.	3.7	3.5
United States 1/ . . .	253.5	214.2	- 16	62.7	50.5
Hogs					
Wisconsin	276.0	318.0	+ 15	65.4	79.2
United States 1/ . . .	7,100.7	7,233.5	+ 2	1,695.4	1,775.0
Sheep and lambs					
Wisconsin2	.3	+ 50	.019	.030
United States 1/ . . .	857.5	770.1	- 10	92.7	83.1

1/Excludes Alaska and Hawaii.

STATE'S HOG INVENTORY LOWER

The inventory of hogs and pigs on Wisconsin farms March 1 was 6 percent less than a year ago. Hogs kept for breeding purposes numbered 245,000, down 20,000 from March 1, 1973. A total of 1,155,000 hogs and pigs were being raised primarily for the slaughter market, a decline of 6 percent from last year.

Wisconsin farmers had 74,000 sows that farrowed from December through February. This was 1,000 sows fewer than farrowed in the comparable quarter a year earlier. The average litter rate of 7.10 pigs per litter was below the 7.35 average for December 1972 - February 1973.

Farrowings in Wisconsin from March through May 1974 are expected to total 106,000 sows, 4 percent under that quarter in the previous year. Farmers in the State intend to farrow 95,000 sows during June through August, down 6 percent from a year earlier.

Hogs and pigs on farms March 1 in the 14 states where quarterly estimates are made totaled 48½ million, up 2 per-

cent from a year ago. Breeding stock was down slightly but hogs and pigs for market were above last year.

The number of sows farrowing in the 14 quarterly states during December through February was 3 percent below that period a year earlier. Farmers in these states intend to farrow

about the same number of sows during March through May as farrowed in that quarter last year. Farrowing intentions for the June through August quarter indicate a decline of 2 percent from the previous year.

All Hogs and Pigs on Farms, Breeding and Market
March 1, 1973 and 1974, 14 States

State	For breeding			Market			Total hogs and pigs		
	1973	1974	Change from last year	1973	1974	Change from last year	1973	1974	Change from last year
	1,000 head		Percent	1,000 head		Percent	1,000 head		Percent
Georgia	323	304	- 6	1,577	1,539	- 2	1,900	1,843	- 3
Illinois	1,050	1,050	n. c.	5,600	5,730	+ 2	6,650	6,780	+ 2
Indiana	672	658	- 2	4,128	4,042	- 2	4,800	4,700	- 2
Iowa	2,059	2,067	n. c.	10,496	11,133	+ 6	12,555	13,200	+ 5
Kansas	276	270	- 2	1,624	1,590	- 2	1,900	1,860	- 2
Kentucky	205	206	n. c.	1,035	969	- 6	1,240	1,175	- 5
Minnesota	560	589	+ 5	2,860	3,141	+ 10	3,420	3,730	+ 9
Missouri	660	660	n. c.	3,340	3,140	- 6	4,000	3,800	- 5
Nebraska	465	475	+ 2	2,535	2,705	+ 7	3,000	3,180	+ 6
North Carolina	317	300	- 5	1,603	1,550	- 3	1,920	1,850	- 4
Ohio	297	318	+ 7	1,753	1,802	+ 3	2,050	2,120	+ 3
South Dakota	306	330	+ 8	1,348	1,605	+ 19	1,654	1,935	+ 17
Texas	170	150	- 12	880	820	- 7	1,050	970	- 8
Wisconsin	265	245	- 8	1,231	1,155	- 6	1,496	1,400	- 6
Total 14 States	7,625	7,622	n. c.	40,010	40,921	+ 2	47,635	48,543	+ 2

Sows to Farrow, March through August, 14 States

State	Sows farrowing			June through August		
	1973	1974 1/	Change from last year	1973	1974 1/	Change from last year
1,000 head						
Georgia	89	88	- 1	87	88	+ 1
Illinois	500	510	+ 2	400	390	- 2
Indiana	250	240	- 4	242	220	- 9
Iowa	980	960	- 2	610	610	n. c.
Kansas	125	120	- 4	85	85	n. c.
Kentucky	80	80	n. c.	70	65	- 7
Minnesota	245	252	+ 3	210	205	- 2
Missouri	279	290	+ 4	228	220	- 4
Nebraska	215	215	n. c.	142	150	+ 6
North Carolina	111	105	- 5	90	92	+ 2
Ohio	125	130	+ 4	112	115	+ 3
South Dakota	168	184	+ 10	80	90	+ 13
Texas	48	47	- 2	56	50	- 11
Wisconsin	110	106	- 4	101	95	- 6
Total 14 States	3,325	3,327	n. c.	2,513	2,475	- 2

1/Number indicated by breeding intentions reports.

Sows Farrowing, Pigs per Litter and Pig Crop
December 1/ through February, 1973 and 1974, 14 States

State	Sows farrowing			Pigs per litter		Pig crop 2/		
	1973	1974	Change from last year	1973	1974	1973	1974	Change from last year
1,000 head								
Georgia	106	107	+ 1	6.60	6.96	700	745	+ 6
Illinois	329	330	n. c.	7.00	6.60	2,303	2,178	- 5
Indiana	235	220	- 6	7.30	6.69	1,716	1,472	- 14
Iowa	485	505	+ 4	7.00	6.95	3,395	3,510	+ 3
Kansas	103	100	- 3	7.05	6.90	726	690	- 5
Kentucky	66	65	- 2	7.20	7.10	475	462	- 3
Minnesota	164	180	+ 10	7.45	7.20	1,222	1,296	+ 6
Missouri	210	200	- 5	6.74	6.92	1,415	1,384	- 2
Nebraska	147	145	- 1	7.20	7.00	1,058	1,015	- 4
North Carolina	119	110	- 8	7.20	7.10	857	781	- 9
Ohio	100	93	- 7	7.00	6.40	700	595	- 15
South Dakota	75	82	+ 9	7.20	7.30	540	599	+ 11
Texas	52	47	- 10	7.20	7.20	374	338	- 10
Wisconsin	75	74	- 1	7.35	7.10	551	525	- 5
Total 14 States	2,266	2,258	n. c.	7.08	6.90	16,032	15,590	- 3

1/December preceding year. 2/Number of pigs born December through February that were on hand March 1 or had been sold.

CUSTOM RATES GUIDE FOR 1974

Recent trends in American agriculture continued in 1973 with fewer farmers producing the Nation's food. As the number of farms decrease the size of the average farm continues to increase. The fact also remains that American farmers are producing more output per acre than ever before. This increase in efficiency has been brought about predominantly by the use of modern seeds, fertilizers, herbicides, insecticides, and machinery.

Modern machinery has caused a tremendous substitution of capital for labor on our farms. As a result of this substitution, the total employment on Wisconsin farms has declined to 179,000 people. To enable Wisconsin farmers and their workers to handle the increased work load they turned to the use of more and larger machines.

As machines increase in size and complexity the cost increases at a greater rate. Therefore a farm operator can have large amounts of capital invested in machines that get relatively little use. Many farmers find that this capital can be used to better advantage in another part of their enterprise. To still get the needed work done the farm operator can turn to leasing or hiring the necessary equipment and avoid having large amounts of capital invested in machinery.

Land Tillage Operations, Wisconsin, 1973 1/

Operation	Range in rates	Average rate	Range in rates	Average rate
Dollars per acre		Dollars per hour		
Plowing:				
Number of bottoms				
2	2.95-5.00	3.99	4.50- 9.00	5.79
3	3.00-6.00	4.35	4.00-12.00	6.80
4	3.00-7.00	4.82	5.00-13.00	9.70
5	3.50-7.00	5.30	5.00-15.00	12.08
6 and over	4.00-7.00	5.08	11.00-25.00	16.86
Disking:				
Width in feet				
8-12	1.00-5.00	2.67	2.50-12.00	7.02
13-16	1.50-4.00	2.55	8.00-12.00	10.22
17 and over	1.50-4.00	2.60	13.00-20.00	15.80
Quack digging:				
Width in feet				
8-9	1.50-4.00	2.31	3.00-12.00	6.76
10-13	2.00-5.50	2.99	3.50- 7.00	5.65
14 and over	2.00-3.00	2.66	3.00-15.00	10.00
Chisel plowing:				
All reports 2/	2.00-7.00	4.06	4.50-14.00	8.57
Harrowing:				
Spiketooth				
Width in feet				
10-18	1.25-4.00	1.87	1.50-10.00	5.71
19 and over	1.00-4.00	1.64	1.75-13.00	6.47
Springtooth				
Width in feet				
7-10	1.50-3.00	2.12	2.00- 4.60	3.34
11-15	1.00-2.50	2.05	3.00-12.00	7.00
16 and over	1.00-4.00	2.14	5.00-12.00	8.80
Chopping corn stalks:				
Width in Feet				
6 and under	1.50-4.00	2.51	2.75-12.00	6.44
All sizes	2.00-4.00	3.14	5.00-20.00	7.94
Cultivating:				
Without fertilizer				
2 row	1.50-3.50	2.26	3.00-12.00	6.25
4 row	1.00-4.00	2.34	3.00- 9.00	6.00
6 row	1.75-3.00	2.38	-	-
With fertilizer				
All reports 2/	2.00-5.00	2.97	8.00-14.00	10.00

1/Rates include charges for the machines, power unit, operator's labor and fuel, but excludes costs of materials such as fertilizer, herbicides, etc. 2/State average per acre includes rates for all sizes of machines reported and reports that failed to indicate size of machine.

Custom work rates published in the tables include the cost of the machine with fuel and operator and other incidental supplies but do not include the cost of materials used such as seed, fertilizer, and herbicide. No attempt was made to distinguish between custom operators who do this work for their main income and farmers who occasionally do custom work as a sideline, or on an exchange basis. Custom operators generally tend to charge higher rates to meet their total expenses and provide a return on their investment.

Rates shown in the tables should be used as guides rather than absolute values in making decisions regarding custom work. Rates can vary widely, depending on topography, soil conditions, type and size of machine, traditional rates in a given area, and special services performed. These rates can be used to check on local rates or to see if leasing or owning a machine may be a better alternative. The user should always refer to the footnotes following the tables before making a final decision relative to doing or hiring farm work done. A more complete report on custom rates in Wisconsin, including harvesting operations and other farm work, is available by writing to the Wisconsin Statistical Reporting Service, Box 5160, Madison, Wisconsin 53705.

Planting and Fertilizing Operations, Wisconsin, 1973 1/

Operation	Range in rates	Average rate	Range in rates		Average rate
			Dollars per acre		
Grain drilling:					
Without fertilizer					
Width in feet					
7-9	1.25-4.00	2.15	2.00-10.00	4.64	
10-11	1.50-4.50	2.26	4.00- 8.00	5.32	
12 and over	2.00-4.00	2.55	7.00	7.00	
With fertilizer					
Width in feet					
7-9	1.50-5.00	2.59	3.50-10.00	6.09	
10-11	1.50-5.00	2.71	4.00- 9.00	5.98	
12 and over	1.00-4.25	2.61	9.00-12.00	10.50	
Corn planting:					
Without fertilizer					
2 row	1.50-4.00	2.77	3.50- 8.00	5.63	
4 row	1.50-5.00	2.47	3.00-14.00	7.60	
6 row	2.50-3.00	2.72	-	-	
With fertilizer					
2 row	1.00-6.00	2.75	3.25-10.00	5.50	
4 row	1.00-6.50	2.70	4.00-15.00	8.88	
With fertilizer and insecticide:					
4 row	-	-	-	-	-
With fertilizer, insecticide and herbicide:					
4 row	3.00-5.00	2.94	5.00-20.00	12.50	
Fertilizer application:					
Dry fertilizer					
	.75-3.50	1.68	4.00-12.00	7.44	
Liquid fertilizer					
	.75-3.00	1.84	4.00-14.00	9.00	
Anhydrous ammonia					
	1.00-6.00	2.09	6.00-12.00	9.43	

1/Rates include charges for the machines, power unit, operator's labor and fuel, but excludes costs of materials such as seed, fertilizer, herbicides, etc.

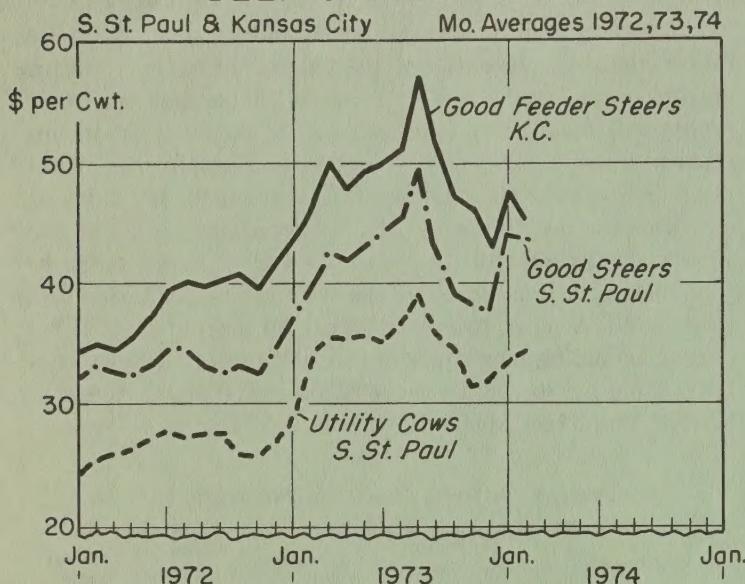
STEER PRICES DOWN
IN FEBRUARY

Prices of good grade fed steers at St. Paul and feeder steers at Kansas City declined from January to February. Good grade steers weighing between 900-1100 pounds averaged \$43.76 a hundredweight at the St. Paul market during February. This was a decline of 55 cents from January but \$3.73 above last year.

Feeder steers weighing between 600-700 pounds averaged \$45.50 a hundredweight at the Kansas City market in February. This was \$2.31 less than a month earlier and 94 cents under February 1973.

Utility cows at St. Paul averaged \$34.40 a hundredweight for February, up 80 cents from the previous month and \$1.12 above a year ago.

BEEF CATTLE PRICES

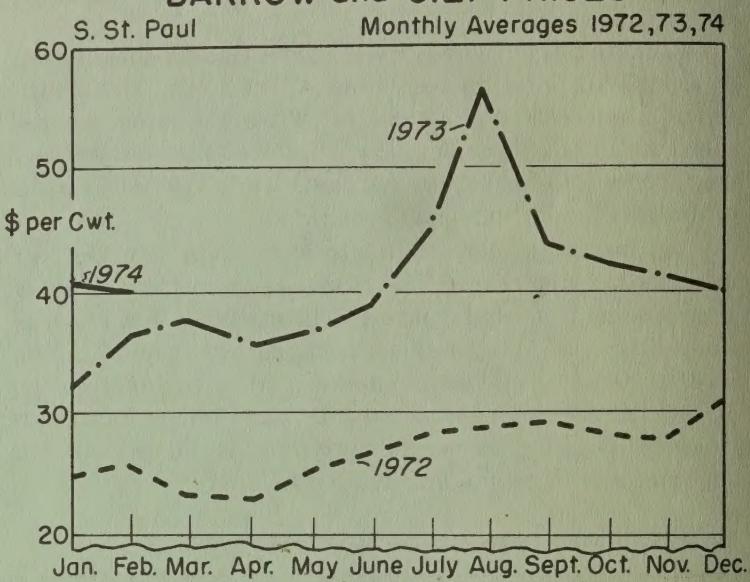


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BARROW AND GILTS LOWER DURING FEBRUARY

Prices of barrows and gilts at the St. Paul market declined during February. Barrows and gilts averaged \$40.06 a hundredweight for February, a drop of 62 cents from January but still \$3.55 higher than last year.

BARROW and GILT PRICES



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE
Box 5160, Madison, Wisconsin 53705

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